



18th Battalion Association

Windsor and Detroit Branch

MEMORIES

Several years after the War, I was coming back from Chicago on the "Twilight" which was then one of the better trains operated by the New York Central Railway as it was solid chair car and excess fare.

As soon as the train left the station in Chicago, I noticed a group of nice looking, well-dressed, healthy young men going through to the Club Car which was on the rear end of the train. I was later told they were members of the Chicago Hockey Team who were going to play in both Toronto and Montreal. As soon as the train left Gary, Indiana, I decided to go to the Diner and was seated at a two chair table on the right side of the Dining Car. Directly across from me, sitting at one of the large tables having dinner were three of the hockey players and an older man who all seemed to be having quite a conversation.

After I had leisurely finished my meal and was waiting for the Steward to bring my check, the older man came over and seeing my returned button (we still wore them at that time) wanted to know what outfit I was with. I told him the Eighteenth Battalion. He replied, so was I. I gave him the number of my car and suggested he come back and we could have a drink together. He did, and introduced himself as Robert Dyer stating he was with the Transport and on occasion acted as groom for Major Hale. I couldn't place him. He then stated he had enlisted in Berlin (Kitchener) and had gone to London with Harold Gellatly, Reg. Lawrence, and Jack Richardson. I then knew he was alright as those three I knew very well. We talked of little things that happened in both London and Sandling and of the different Officers and men we both knew. Mr. Dyer invited me to be his guest when his team played in Detroit but I could never make it owing to shift work.

A few years later, our Reunion was held in Guelph. Jack Wilford and I shared a room at the Wellington Hotel, and as most of the members of the Battalion from that district were in our Company, we had plenty of visitors. I asked Jack Richardson about Mr. Dyer. Jack stated he was well known in the Kitchener district as Bobby Dyer as he was always interested in amateur sports and was usually an officer of the junior leagues. He also stated that about a year before Mr. Dyer had come back from Chicago very sick. He was later sent to Westminster and after being a patient there for some time, he passed away, his funeral being well-attended by the Eighteenth men who resided in the Kitchener-Waterloo district. Mr. Dyer was a nice person, and was proud of his service with the Battalion. According to the nominal roll in possession of Ab. Ross, his Reg. No. was 53041, and it shows he was a former member of the Canadian Militia.